



Branching Out

March 20, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

Important Notice: There have been some requests to make the newsletter bi-weekly. What is your preference? Do you like having it posted to the internet? Let me know at charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov

TREE meetings:

Next meeting April 21, 11 am, at beautiful Stratford Hall, 483 Great House Road, Montross VA. We will get a special tour of the mansion, and have a chance to walk the nature trails or go down to find shark's teeth on the fossil beach. Please bring a lunch. Save resources by bringing your own water bottle or mug. Visit their website at www.stratfordhall.org

Fall meeting: Jeff Kirwin will speak at our fall meeting at the Northumberland Library in Heathsville. Details in next newsletter.

Local Events:

March 14 Lauck's Island Tour & Picnic

Hop into rafts and float over to explore this fascinating island in the Rappahannock. Dr. Robert Wheeler and naturalist guides will take participants on an interpretive hike to visit the old homestead ruins, identify native plants, and much more! Bring a bag lunch for a picnic on the island's beach. This is a great family event. Minimum age is 6 yrs. 10 am-3 pm. *Backup: March 15.* The cost is \$20 for an individual and \$60 for a family (up to four people). Pre-registration required, call Friends of the Rappahannock at 540-373-3448 to register.

Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local—Food for Thought

The Northern Neck Master Gardeners will present their annual Gardening the Northern Neck seminar on Saturday, March 21, 9 am to 3:30 pm at the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone. Morning and afternoon keynote speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and a market place are planned. For more information and registration details call the Northumberland Extension office at (804) 580-5694 or e-mail kingdon@kaballero.com

Dragon Run Kayak Trip on Monday, April 13

There are only 8 spaces for Monday, April 13th to kayak part of the Dragon Run with Teta Kain. Three spaces have already been reserved, so there are **5 spaces left**. The kayaks are provided for this guided tour. For information about Dragon Run, please go to

www.dragonrun.org;

Please let Sally Caskie know by **Friday, March 27th** if you would like to participate. These spaces will fill up quickly! Sally will send a copy of the information form and the release form to you at that time. Please note first to reply will get the remaining spots.

Sally caskie@rivnet.net or 804-472-5128

Invasive species workshop designed for landowners, landscapers, public officials

Saturday, April 25, 2009

9:00am - 2:00pm

Beale Memorial Baptist Church, Tappahannock

Registration Fee \$5.00

Includes lunch and a short field demonstration on pesticide use, and speakers from US Fish and Wildlife, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Cooperative Extension and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Call Tidewater RC&D Council for more details and to register
804-443-1118

Other Events:

Association for Experiential Education Conference ~ Maryland

March 20-22, 2009 ~ North East, Maryland

Participate in a fantastic weekend of learning at the 20th Annual Mid-Atlantic AEE Conference at NorthBay's beautiful \$35 million dollar facility on a half-mile of Chesapeake Bay waterfront, home to dynamic environmental and social awareness educational programs. Registration includes conference fees, lodging, on-site adventure activities, and all meals. <http://mid-atlantic.aee.org/conferences/>

Planning Successful Special Events

March 24th, 9am-Noon, Volunteer Hampton Roads

Learn how to stand out among the sea of local events and overcome economic challenges. This session will provide knowledge and tools to help you create an event that will make an impact, meet your organization's goals and raise those much needed funds.

For more information, click [here](#).

Statewide Campaign: Plan now to participate in Stewardship Virginia

April 1- May 31

Stewardship Virginia is a statewide initiative held twice annually to help citizens with projects that enhance and conserve Virginia's natural and cultural resources. Its focus is on projects that *enhance water quality, control invasive species, improve recreational resources, preserve historic*

and cultural resources, preserve natural heritage resources, educate people about recreational, historical, cultural, wildlife and water resources and improve wildlife habitat. Get involved! Register a project today! Visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/stewardship or contact Bonnie Phillips at 804-786-5056.

Keys to Effective Grant Writing

April 7th, 9am-Noon, Volunteer Hampton Roads

Learn the elements of a winning grant proposal straight from a development professional. This session will provide you with the essential skills to successfully write your proposal, report the impact of your program and maintain relationships with your funders.

For more information, click [here](#)

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

The March/April Virginia Naturally Newsletter is available at http://www.vanaturally.com/vanaturally/mar_aprnews09.html, featuring Earth Day resources, grant information, upcoming events and litter picks. If you have news to submit for the next issue, please email Sheila Barnett at smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov.

Watermen Cleaning Debris out of the Chesapeake Bay

58 watermen are part of a work program to collect debris in the Chesapeake Bay using sonar units to locate the undesirable items. They have pulled up more than 3,100 crab pots, nearly 300 peeler pots, and an assortment of eel pots, fishing nets, and other discarded metal items. The Virginia Marine Resources Commission implemented the cleanup program for the wintertime to stop winter crab dredging and give the crabs a chance to reproduce and repopulate the bay. The debris cleanup program is expected to continue through 2011. For more information, contact the Virginia Marine Resources Commission: <http://www.mrc.state.va.us/index.shtm>

How to Increase Office Productivity Using Free Software

How to Increase Office Productivity Using Free Software is an eight-part series that covers everything nonprofits need to know about moving from costly desktop office software to Google's free online office tools suite. This series offers tutorials for getting started with Google – using and configuring Google Mail (Gmail); Google Calendar; and Google Docs, including the spreadsheet and presentation functions – as well as a host of other free applications that increase productivity and are fun to learn. This series will show you how your organization can easily make use of free tools to achieve organizational objectives for both novice and experienced computer users. To read Part Three, "Unleashing the Power of Gmail," click the headline above.

4th Annual Stream Cleaner Environment Forum

This is a free, curriculum based internet activity available 24/7 to high school classes throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Students investigate the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort, a regional issue relevant to their lives. They engage their peers across the internet and role play as stakeholders, problem solvers, and consensus builders to formulate solutions. The SCE Forum is open to 9th – 12 grade classes. The lessons are available on line now and the dialogue runs from

March 9th – April 10th. Go to www.cacaponinstitute.org/high.htm or call Frank Rodgers, Education and Outreach Director, Cacapon Institute at (304) 856-1385 or frodgers@cacaponinstitute.org

Facing the Future

Check out www.facingthefuture.org This site offers lesson plans to teach environmental concepts to children starting in kindergarten. This site also lists professional development opportunities and conferences.

Tools with a Cost:

Grantseeking During a Recession: How to Broaden Your Grant Support

How do you broaden your grant support during a recession? This webinar discusses how to establish an aggressive grantseeking program that can help you weather economic downturns. Find out what you can expect from grantmakers in the next year or two, and how to position your organization to take advantage of the current economic climate. Learn a step-by-step grantseeking process to help you secure the grant awards your organization needs to survive and grow. Cynthia M. Adams will teach this 90-minute webinar on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 2 p.m. EST. The registration fee is \$89 per person. Visit the website listed above to register.

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

Grants Enhance Company Communities Nationwide

Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program

The Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program awards grants at the state and regional level to programs that have a strong impact within the communities the company serves. The program provides grants of \$25,000 and up in the following categories: Education grants support programs that address the educational needs of underserved young people ages 12-25. Workforce Development/Economic Opportunity grants target job skill training and support services for unemployed and displaced workers. Health and Wellness grants strive to improve access to healthcare, reduce healthcare disparities, and promote healthy lifestyles. Environmental Sustainability grants assist in the development or expansion of environmentally sustainable communities, with emphasis on green building and job training. The Foundation has a particular interest in supporting veterans and military families, traditionally underserved groups, individuals with disabilities, and people impacted by natural disasters. The application deadlines for 2009 are April 17 and September 18. Visit the website listed above to review the FAQ and submit an online application.

Jobs

Special Events Coordinator, Virginia Zoo

Norfolk, VA

The Virginia Zoo is seeking a special events professional to fill the position of Special Events Coordinator. Responsibilities include coordination and execution of the Zoo's annual special events (events that are open to the general public); coordinating and implementing all outside event sales

(private events; general facility rental); working with Zoo communications staff in promoting special events to the Zoo's target audience. A Bachelor's degree in Marketing, Communications or related field and 1-3 years special events experience is required. The successful candidate will be an energetic, detail-oriented team player able to communicate effectively, prioritize multiple tasks and meet multiple deadlines. Desktop publishing experience preferred. Some evenings and weekends required. Competitive salary and benefits.

Resumes with cover letter, salary requirements and references scan be submitted to: Special Events Coordinator Position, ATTN: Annie Vogt, Virginia Zoo, 3500 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23504 or anne.vogt@norfolk.gov. Deadline for application is Wednesday, March 31, 2009. No phone calls please.

Bureau Manager, Animal Management Care Center

Norfolk, VA

The City of Norfolk is seeking a strong manager to serve on the management team within the Department of Neighborhood Preservation. This position will plan, direct, organize, and manage existing and new programs within the Animal Management Care Center. The successful candidate will be a creative, innovative manager who will successfully expand the business and establish strong partnerships within the community.

The Manager of the Animal Management Care Center is responsible for all affairs of the bureau including financial management, fundraising, public relations, development, human resources, strategic planning, and operation of an animal shelter. Must have proven experience in staff management. Work experience in sheltering helpful, but more important is experience in leadership and/or management and building strong partnering relationships.

The Animal Management Care Center is committed to reducing euthanasia rates, spaying/neutering, adoptions, outplacements, enforcing animal related laws, humane education, and working closely with all community animal advocates.

Work requires three (3) years experience in management and a BA or BS in Business, Public Administration, Communications, Veterinary or Animal Sciences, or any combination of training and experience or a related field.

SALARY RANGE: \$57,362 - \$100,958 annually (DOQ)

CLOSING DATE: Open until filled; however, time is of the essence for submission of resume.

APPLICANT RESPONSE: Interested applicants may submit an application at www.norfolk.gov/jobs.

Communications & Outreach Coordinator

World Wildlife Federation, Reston, VA

Communications and Outreach Coordinator Description: We seek a qualified individual to be the Communications and Outreach Coordinator. This person will be responsible for leading the recruitment and outreach effort to build the membership among local, regional and national NGO's for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed NGO coalition. This position will be responsible for coordinating campaign activities on multiple levels with numerous individuals in various organizations and locations. Specifically, the Communications and Outreach Coordinator will assist the coalition manager on planning and development of grassroots/grasstops outreach, political strategy, media outreach, organizing of conferences and workshops, research, writing and grant reporting.

- Qualified individuals must have a four year college degree. An advanced degree would be a plus.
- Additionally, a minimum of 3 years progressively responsible senior level experience is required in developing and implementing advocacy campaigns, grassroots organizing, media, and environmental advocacy.
- Overall, a minimum 5 years of experience is required.
- Experience with water resources management or Chesapeake Bay policy would be a plus.
- Excellent communication and writing skills are required.
- Proven capacity to design, implement and modify a national campaign plan is necessary for qualified individuals.
- Ability to coordinate various levels of staff activities to meet program goals will also be necessary.

Apply at <http://www.nwf.org/careergateway> and join us in protecting our country's wildlife.

Job Type: Full Time permanent
Salary Detail: Based on Qualifications
Deadline: 6-13-2009
Organization: National Wildlife Federation
Contact Person: Patrice Garnett
Phone: (703)438-6227
E-Mail: garnettp@nwf.org

Mailing Address: 11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston VA 20190-5362

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcr.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact jtritz@vt.edu